

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 7965

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AR, PFOR, US

SUBJECT: ARGENTINE VIEWS ON CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN POLICY
PLANNING STAFFS

S/P LEWIS FROM ORTIZ

1. IN OUR DISCUSSIONS WITH RANKING GOA OFFICIALS RE FORTH-
COMING CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN POLICY PLANNING STAFFS, WE HAVE
ENCOUNTERED A GROWING PERCEPTION OF THE SIGNIFICANCE SUCH
TALKS CAN HAVE FOR BROADENING AND STRENGTHENING A CONSTRUC-
TIVE BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP. GOA AFTER SOME INITIAL DOUBTS
NOW ACTIVELY PREPARING FOR CONSULTATIONS. THERE FOLLOW
HIGHLIGHTS OF OUR EXCHANGES THUS FAR AND A FEW TIPS FOR
YOUR CONSIDERATION.

2. GOA CONSIDERS DATES NOV 25-27 PREFERABLE TO DATES
PROPOSED EARLIER.

3. GOA PLEASED WITH COMPOSITION US TEAM. ON THEIR SIDE
PARTICIPANTS MOST LIKELY WILL BE DESMARAS LUZURIAGA, BECKMANN
AND MOLINA SALAS, WHO ARE THREE FOREIGN OFFICE UNDER
SECRETARIES. DESMARAS UNTIL TWO MONTHS AGO, HEADED GOA EQUIVA-
LENT OF POLCIY PLANNING STAFF. GOA NORTH AMERICAN COUNTRY
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DIRECTOR MEDUS WOULD PARTICIPATE IN MOST, IF NOT ALL

CONSULTATIONS. IN ADDITION, MINISTRY PLANS TO ASSEMBLE APPROPRIATE TECHNICIANS AND EXPERTS FROM OTHER GOVERNMENT ENTITIES AND INSTITUTIONS DEPENDING UPON TOPICS TO BE DISCUSSED. AT LUNCH GIVEN BY FONMIN VIGNES, NEW MINISTERS ECONOMY AND AGRICULTURE INDICATED THEIR MINISTRIES EXPECTED PARTICIPATE.

4. ARGENTINES EVIDENCE PARTICULAR INTEREST IN REVIEWING WITH US TEAM ARGENTINE PROJECTIONS AND CONCEPTS IN THE FOLLOWING FIELDS, WHICH WE EXPECT WILL BE AMPLIFIED AS ARGENTINE PREPARATIONS ADVANCE:

A. BETTER DEFINITION AND FRAMEWORK FOR THE TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY;

B. ARGENTINE (PARTICULARLY DESMARAS LUZURIAGA) CONCERN THAT THE EDUCATIONAL PROBLEMS CONFRONTING DEVELOPING NATIONS BE CONSIDERED AND POSSIBLE MEANS ENCOUNTERED FOR RESOLVING WHAT THEY CONSIDER TO BE PROBLEM'S OVERRIDING SIGNIFICANCE.

C. ARGENTINE INTEREST IN FINDING EFFECTIVE SOLUTIONS TO SOCIAL PROBLEMS, A CONCEPT THEY COVERED BY TERM OF "PROGRAMACION SOCIAL";

D. IN AREA OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS, ARGENTINA (RIGHTFULLY) CONSIDERS HERSELF A "WORLD POWER- ARGENTINES WILL BE PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN DISCUSSING THEIR CONCEPTS AS TO THE FUTURERAMIFICATIONS FOOD PROBLEMS COULD BE EXPECTED TO HAVE. ARGENTINES WOULD BE ESPECIALLY INTERESTED IN WORKING TOWARDS A BETTER EXCHANGE OF TECHNOLOGY AND SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION RELATED TO AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION.

E. ENERGY PROBLEMS: BECAUSE OF BALANCE-OF-PAYMENTS EFFECTS CAUSED BY RISE IN FUEL COSTS WHICH IN TURN AFFECT ARGENTINE AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS, ARGENTINES INTERESTED IN EXPLORING US VIEWS ON ENERGY PROBLEMS.

5. THE FOLLOWING TIPS MAY BE USEFUL:
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A. ARGENTINES CONSIDER THAT "THIRD WORLD" POSITION IS AN ARGENTINE CONCEPTUALIZATION TO WHICH THEY ARE RATHER FIRMLY ATTACHED. IT WOULD BE IMPOLITIC AND COUNTERPRODUCTIVE FOR VISITING TEAM TO TAKE TACK THAT ARGENTINA DOES "NOT BELONG" IN THE THIRD WORLD.

B. DESMARAS, SEMI-SERIOUSLY, SAID THAT DESPITE

ARGENTINA'S GREATER INTEREST IN SOCIAL PROBLEMS, HE TRUSTED US TEAM WOULD NOT INCLUDE A SOCIOLOGIST, BUT THERE WERE INDICATIONS THAT AN EXPERT ON AGRICULTURAL MATTERS WOULD BE WELCOME.

C. THERE IS SOME SUSPICION WHICH WE HOPEFULLY HAVE DISSIPATED THAT US, IN EFFECT, IS USING THESE TALKS TO CHANNEL ARGENTINE POLICIES ALONG LINES SUPPORTIVE OF US INTERESTS. WE ASSURED OUR INTERLOCUTORS THAT WHAT WAS WANTED WAS A FREE EXCHANGE OF IDEAS AND THAT WE MAY BE SURPRISED AT LARGE AREA OF AGREEMENT IN OUR VIEWS OF THE FUTURE. THE MORE WE HAVE CONVERSED ABOUT OUR PROSPECTIVE VISIT, THE MORE WE HAVE FOUND THE ARGENTINES TO BE FAVORABLY DISPOSED.

6. COMMENT: WHILE IT MAY SEEM TO US THAT ITEMS ARGENTINES WISH TO DISCUSS ARE DIFFUSE AND A BIT ESOTERIC, AND THERE WILL UNDOUBTEDLY BE OTHER TOPICS SUCH AS TRADE WHICH THEY WILL WISH TO DISCUSS, THE IMPORTANT THING IS THAT THEY APPEAR SINCERELY INTERESTED IN A DIALOGUE. IN TENNIS TERMS, IT LOOKS LIKE A 6 TO 1 SET, BUT THE TEAMS WILL BE ON THE COURT AND THE BALL IN PLAY.

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